



Arizona Department of Agriculture

1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 542-4373 FAX (602) 542-5420

MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: February 22, 2005

MEDIA CONTACT: Katie Decker, 602-542-0958

Arizona Agriculture Advisory Council Elects New Chairperson and Vice-chairperson

(Phoenix, AZ) -- Rick Ladra was elected Chairperson and Cindy Baker was elected Vice-chairperson for the Arizona Department of Agriculture Advisory Council at a recent quarterly meeting.

Rick Ladra was appointed to the council in 2002 to represent production agriculture. He is a second generation Arizona cotton, grain and alfalfa producer and presently serves as a director in the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, Farmer's Gin Inc. and as an alternate to Cotton Incorporated.

Cindy Baker was appointed in 2003 to represent agribusiness. She worked for Gowan Company since August of 1995. While there, she had responsibilities in regulatory, communications, government affairs, sales management and served as President of Gowan Company for two years. Gowan Company recently created a new company, Exigent, to handle the regulatory and government affairs for all of the companies in the group of companies and Baker will be running Exigent.

The Department Advisory Council is required to review agricultural policy as created by law and as administered in all functional areas of the department. The Council must advise the department director in formulating administrative rules and budget allocations. Seats on the Advisory Council are assigned by business expertise: animal production (2), plant production (2) and agribusiness (1).

Council members are appointed by the governor to serve five year terms. They receive no compensation.

###